

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## Secretary Clinton on Independence Day for South Sudan

The following op-ed by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was published by the Washington Post on July 9. There are no republication restrictions.

Op-Ed  
Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
The Washington Post  
July 9, 2011

### Independence Day for South Sudan

This weekend, in Juba, South Sudan, Africa's 54th nation was born. Millions of people are celebrating a new national identity and new national promise. Like on our own July Independence Day 235 years ago, there is reason to hope for a better future — if the people and leaders of both Sudan and South Sudan commit themselves to the hard work ahead.

This day was far from inevitable. For more than two decades, Sudan has been riven by intense fighting over land and resources. Just a year ago, talks between the Sudanese government in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south had stalled. Preparations for a referendum on southern independence had fallen behind. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005 appeared close to collapse. A return to open conflict seemed likely.

Thankfully, people on both sides and across the world worked together to chart a different path.

Activists, religious groups and human rights advocates focused attention on the conflict and refused to let it fade. Last year, President Obama committed to reenergizing the peace effort. Since then we have redoubled our engagement with partners in the north and south, as well as in the African Union, Europe and the United Nations.

Most of all, though, Saturday's successful outcome is a testament to the will and dedication of the people of Sudan and South Sudan and their leaders. They have shown that even under the most difficult circumstances, peace is possible if people are willing to make hard choices and stand by them.

But just as independence was not inevitable, neither is a lasting peace between Sudan and South Sudan. Decades of war have left deep distrust on both sides and significant social, political and economic challenges. Both nations will have to take decisive steps to consolidate progress.

First, they must quickly return to the negotiating table and seek to complete the unfinished business of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. That means settling outstanding questions related to finances, oil and citizenship; demarcating remaining border areas; and fully implementing their agreement on temporary arrangements for the contested Abyei area, which lies along the border of Sudan and South Sudan, including the redeployment of all Sudanese military forces. The violence that has flared in Abyei in recent months cannot be allowed to return and jeopardize the larger peace.

Second, South Sudan must address its internal challenges. Its people face wrenching poverty, inadequate education and health care, and the continuing presence of armed militia groups. To succeed, South Sudan will have to begin building an effective, democratic and inclusive government that respects human rights and delivers services with transparency and accountability.

Over the years, American development experts in South Sudan have helped build new roads, clinics and schools; worked with farmers to grow more food; and trained more effective civil servants. As we move ahead, the United States and the world will be there as South Sudan lays the foundation for its future.

Third, Sudan must address its own challenges. Sudan's future success rests on its ability to end its isolation in the international community. That is the only way it will secure access to international financing, investment and debt relief. The United States is prepared to help — including by normalizing our bilateral relations — and we have taken some initial steps in that direction. But we can move forward only if Sudan fulfills its obligations and demonstrates its commitment to peace within its borders and with its neighbors.

One urgent step both sides must take is agreeing to a cessation of hostilities in the northern border state of Southern Kordofan, which started in early June. We are deeply concerned about the continued aerial bombardments, harassment of U.N. staff and obstruction of humanitarian relief efforts. The longer this fighting goes on, the more difficult it will become to resolve.

We also remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian and security crisis in Darfur. Sudan's government must move to address the economic and political grievances of the Darfuri people, and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes. The United States will continue to work with international partners to build on the progress made in the peace process that is now coming to a close.

After decades of conflict, the people of this region have reason to hope again. When I met with leaders of Sudan and South Sudan last month in Addis Ababa, I reminded

them that they have the power to chart a better future for all Sudanese. As they do, they can be assured that the United States will be a steadfast partner.

## **U.S. Recognizes South Sudan, Pledges Steadfast Partnership**

By Merle Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Washington — The United States formally recognized the Republic of South Sudan on July 9 and pledged steadfast partnership as the South Sudanese begin building a new country after decades of civil war.

President Obama issued the formal recognition of the world's newest nation in Washington as independence ceremonies and celebrations were being held in the new country's capital, Juba, and across South Sudan.

"Today is the reminder that after the darkness of war, the light of a new dawn is possible," Obama said. "A proud flag flies over Juba and the map of the world has been redrawn."

"These symbols speak to the blood that has been spilled, the tears that have been shed, the ballots that have been cast, and the hopes that have been realized by so many millions of people," he added.

Obama said that July 9 marks the creation of two new neighbors — South Sudan and Sudan, from which the south separated. The people of South Sudan voted in a weeklong national referendum for independence in balloting that began January 9. That vote was called for by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended two decades of civil war.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton echoed the president's statement, saying, "Independence presents a new beginning for the people of South Sudan; an opportunity to build a nation that embodies the values and aspirations of its people."

"The challenges are many, but the South Sudanese people have demonstrated their capacity to overcome great odds," she added. "The United States will remain a steadfast partner as South Sudan seeks to peacefully meet these challenges and build a free, democratic and inclusive society."

South Sudan's African neighbors and the African Union played an essential part in making July 9 possible, Obama said.

"The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented, the status of Abyei must be resolved through negotiations, and violence and intimidation in Southern Kordofan, especially by the government of

Sudan, must end," Obama added.

The U.S. presidential delegation was led by the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Susan Rice, and included former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who signed the 2005 peace accord on behalf of the United States.

"On behalf of President Obama, my fellow delegates, the U.S. government and the American people, we warmly welcome the Republic of South Sudan to the community of sovereign nations," Rice said during the independence ceremonies.

"We salute those who did not live to see this moment — from leaders such as Dr. John Garang to the ordinary citizens who rest in unmarked graves," Rice added. "We cannot bring them back. But we can honor their memory by working together to build South Sudan into a country worthy of their sacrifice."

The peaceful transition to independence for South Sudan was a major milestone following nearly five decades of civil war and strife. The latest civil war, from 1983-2005, culminated in the 2005 peace accord that led to the July 9 independence. The United States played a key role in brokering the 2005 peace accord, and the United States has been the lead donor of assistance for many years.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided comprehensive technical and material assistance that was essential to the conduct of the January referendum on self-determination. USAID supported the procurement of registration and voting materials, voter education, and domestic and international observers to ensure that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and Bureau had the capacity to hold a credible, on-time referendum.

Since the signing of the CPA, USAID worked closely with the new government to provide a million people access to clean water; helped increase children's enrollment in schools nearly fourfold; and established tools like microfinance institutions to jump-start economic opportunities.

Later this year, the United States will host an international engagement conference to provide South Sudan leaders with a platform to present their vision for the future of their country and engage international partners on priority areas of support and collaboration, according to the U.S. State Department.

## **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY**

The noon independence celebration in Juba was marked by the changing of national flags from Sudan to South

Sudan and with the signing of the new constitution by South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit. There were military parades, prayers, receptions and street celebrations as the South Sudanese launched a new era.

Delegations from across the globe attended the ceremonies held in the center of Juba. Sudan formally recognized South Sudan and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir attended and spoke at the independence ceremonies. After signing the new constitution, Kiir took the oath of office followed by the playing of the national anthem.

In a week, South Sudan is expected to become the 193rd nation recognized the United Nations and the 54th U.N.-member nation from Africa.

### **Last Shuttle Mission Begins with Near-Perfect Launch**

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer

Washington — The final mission of the U.S. space shuttle program launched successfully from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida July 8, despite a projection early in the day that poor weather conditions could delay liftoff.

“The space shuttle Atlantis spreads its wings to begin one final flight,” said the NASA announcer narrating the liftoff broadcast. The mission — the 135th for this class of spacecraft — will last 12 days, thus bringing the 30-year-old program to its end.

“I think the shuttle program is ending exactly as it should,” said Launch Integration Manager Mike Moses. “We’ve built the International Space Station, we’re stocking it up for the future, and ready to hand it off, and we finish really, really strong.”

The shuttle carries 4.5 million pounds of equipment and four astronauts into orbit, set for a rendezvous with the International Space Station on July 10.

The activities of the astronauts over the next 12 days are meticulously detailed, day-by-day, task-by-task. It’s really just one big mission for the Atlantis crew — to stock the Space Station complex with as many supplies and spare parts as possible to sustain this human outpost in space when no shuttle vehicle is operative to respond to the needs — human or technological — of the station.

STS-135 is carrying the Raffaello module as the container to hold some 3,600 kilograms of supplies going up; coming back down, Raffaello will carry about 2,300 kilograms of cargo and completed experiments no longer needed at the station.

On their second day in space, Atlantis crew members will

perform a task that will stir memories of one of the darkest days in the shuttle program. They’ll inspect the spacecraft’s Thermal Protection System (TPS) to determine if it was damaged in the explosive launch or the jettison of the rocket boosters after takeoff. Failure of the TPS caused the incineration of the shuttle Columbia as the spacecraft re-entered Earth’s atmosphere in February 2003. The spacecraft blasted into countless pieces that littered the flight path, spanning several states. It was the second loss of a shuttle and crew, after the Challenger craft burst into a soaring inferno on its 1986 liftoff.

Combining the Challenger and Columbia disasters, 14 people died in the 30-year history of the space shuttle. But 355 individuals — astronauts, scientists, politicians and teachers — have survived and returned to space, totaling 852 person-trips on 135 missions. The five orbiters in the shuttle fleet have flown more than 864 million kilometers, and the Atlantis mission will push the total close to 870 million kilometers.

With the space shuttle going into retirement, U.S. astronauts will hitch rides on Russian spacecraft to take positions on the International Space Station. NASA, meantime, will be designing and constructing vehicles to carry humans into the next phase of manned spaceflight. The space agency is already working on the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, which will have the capacity to carry a four-person crew on a mission of up to 21 days. It will go beyond low Earth orbit, where the shuttle and the station have been confined.

NASA is also working on the technologies to support human exploration of the solar system, including solar electric propulsion, refueling depots in orbit, radiation protection and high-reliability life support systems.

New unmanned scientific missions are scheduled for the next few months. Later in July, the Dawn spacecraft will arrive at the large asteroid Vesta, in search of clues to the earliest days of the solar system. In August, a spacecraft named Juno will be launched on a course toward Jupiter in pursuit of data that will offer greater insights into the composition and history of the largest planet in the solar system.

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